

Appl. No.: 10/828,630.

Amendment and Reply to Office action of April 4, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A vaccine strain of *Bacillus anthracis* which is the strain of *Bacillus anthracis* having deposit accession number ATCC PTA-3162,
2. (New) A mutated strain of *Bacillus anthracis* which is the strain of *Bacillus anthracis* having deposit accession number ATCC PTA-3162.
3. (New) A mutated strain of *Bacillus anthracis* having physicochemical properties comprising:
 - presence of pX01 plasmid;
 - synthesis of Diazoluminomelanin;
 - sensitivity to Penicillin;
 - ability to be lysed by Cherry gamma phage;
 - non-hemolytic;
 - production of nitrite from nitrate; and,
 - thermal resistance up to about 240 degrees C.

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4. (New) The mutated strain of claim 3, further comprising the physicochemical property of producing delayed onset of death in a laboratory animal, compared to the Sterne strain of *Bacillus anthracis*.

5. (New) A composition comprising:

about 55 g of trypticase soy broth (TSB) base;
about 12 g potassium nitrate;
about 100 mg luminol (5-amino-2 3-dihydro-1; 4-phthalazinedione); and
about 80 mg 3-amino-L-tyrosine dihydrochloride
per liter of water.

6. (New) A method comprising:

providing as a medium the composition of Claim 5; and
inoculating said medium with a paternal bacteria strain;
whereby a mutated bacteria strain is produced.

7. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein said paternal bacteria strain is *Bacillus anthracis*.

8. (New) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

introducing cells of said mutated bacteria strain into a laboratory animal;

and

producing delayed onset of death in said laboratory animal, compared to an animal into which said paternal bacteria strain is introduced.

9. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein said paternal bacteria strain is the Sterne strain of *Bacillus anthracis*.

10. (New) A method comprising:

culturing in a medium a cell of the mutated strain of Claim 2, under conditions permitting expression of protein products; and purifying one or more of said protein products from said cell or medium of said cell.